



Volume 2, Issue 4

Ouranophantor

April 2019

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



Church Office: info@stbasilchicago.org

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Telephone: 312-243-3738

Phone: 847-558-9849

Office Fax: 312-243-7961

email: frdimitri@stbasilchicago.org

Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy
Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 6:30 a.m.
Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

- + Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by “Forgiveness: Jacob DeShazer & St. Dionysios of Zakunthos” Lenten lecture/dinner in Philoptochos Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

- + Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by “St. Mary of Egypt and the Power of Repentance” Lenten lecture/dinner in Philoptochos Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 14, 2019

- + Girls Ministry Discussion — “Orthodox Women in Action”
- + Yiayia’s Kouzina — bake sale & pre-order pick-up — immediately following Divine Liturgy in Philoptochos Hall

Sunday, April 23, 2019

- + Palm Sunday Luncheon— immediately following Divine Liturgy in Philoptochos Hall

Monday, April 22, 2019 to Saturday April 27, 2019— Holy Week

- + See page 17 for Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, April 28, 2019 — Pascha/Easter

- + Agape Vespers followed by Easter Egg Hunt
- + See page 17 for Liturgical Schedule

We welcome new families to our parish.

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese.

Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

40-Day Blessings:



Baptisms:



Chrismations:

Weddings:

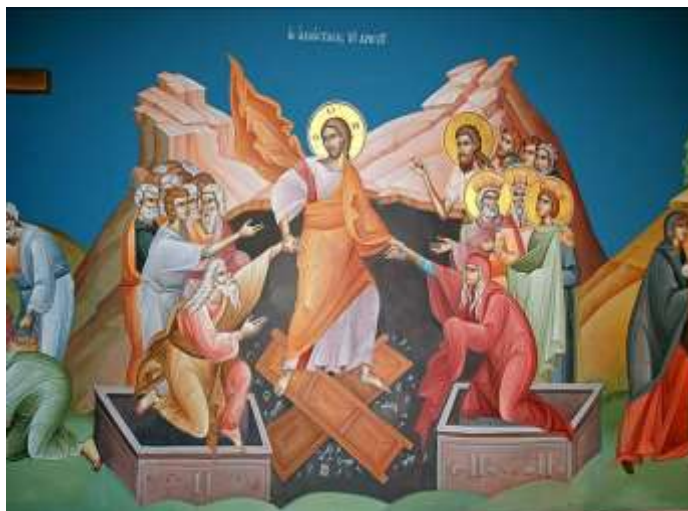
March 10, 2019

Edward Franklin

Godparent: Anthony Kidonakis



Funerals:



Father Dimitri's Message



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare for the Feast of Feasts, we must look around us and soak in the dichotomy of the world around us. On the one hand, here at St. Basil we are experiencing record growth in the generosity of our stewards who are giving of their time, talents, and treasure for the glory of God and their love for this Holy Church. We have thus far seen great success in our events and growth in our ministries due to the creativity and zeal of our parishioners who want to honor the calling they received from their Savior to help those in need and to bring beauty to the services of the Church.

By every metric, we should be happy and encouraged by this growth, and yet we see a world around us fiercely divided and angry. Between political animosity that used to be entertaining Thanksgiving arguments turning into family members refusing to talk to one another, to a multitude of other disagreements seen in the public sphere I have noticed an increased anger in the populace. There is anxiety. There is fear. There is hatred. Anxiety enters our lives when there is a lack of certainty. If one comes across a bridge and it is made of secure stone and buttresses, then one will have no problem walking across it. But if that bridge is made of rope with rotten wooden planks, one will not be certain that traveling across the bridge will be safe. That uncertainty in life brings anxiety.



And that condition should not seem foreign to us. . . even from the beginning. If we look back to Genesis 2:15 “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it,” we see that man was given a job. This job to take care of the garden is nuanced. The verb used for “keep” is “φυλάσσω,” which translates “to guard, watch, protect.”

This begs the question, “From what was Adam supposed to *protect* the garden?” We, of course, can answer that as we see the results of that particular incursion: the serpent (the evil one). However, given that Adam and Eve had not eaten from the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, neither of them would have had any idea on how to accomplish that task of protecting the garden. This uncertainty would lead to a great state of anxiety.

What should Adam and Eve have done? They should have behaved like toddlers and turned to their Heavenly Father and said, “Help us! Lord have mercy!” Had our first parents taken this simple step and asked for help, as you hear repeated so many times in our worship services, they would have been picked up and shown the way to navigate this challenge.

Instead, what happened next? Adam and Eve listened to the serpent and were corrupted by sin. This leads us to death. Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” Death leads us to fear. We are all afraid to die, and there are so many ways that it can happen: illness, violence, age. We have invested a lot of time, energy, and money into this pursuit of life that we have forgotten the source of death and the nature of its defeat.



Christ our God voluntarily gave Himself over to that which gave us fear. Was He afraid? Unquestionably. As he prepared in the Garden of Gethsemane before going to His Passion we see His fear. “And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:44). Doctors state that in order for a person to sweat blood, that person is in so much stress that his or her heart is about to have a heart attack. And why wouldn't He be in agony? The death He was to suffer and the scourging by the Roman government prior to the crucifixion is marked as one of the most brutal, agonizing, humiliating ways to die. And He voluntarily went to this death for our Salvation, that He might descend into Hades and rescue all who had died prior with the hope in Him. From the icon of the Resurrection we see Adam and Eve raised and restored to their original beauty. Death is vanquished and its power over humanity destroyed.



Death and by extension the devil were defeated by Christ, and yet that isn't the end. We are still in this world and there is still sin. The devil finally recognized his inability to corrupt or conquer the Christ (John 1). So, the devil takes his hatred for God by hurting those he does have the power to hurt: us. The only way to hurt God, to cause Him injury, is to keep us away from Him. If the devil can corrupt us and deceive us into turning away from God, then he achieves his little victory. Because we have free will and because God is a righteous judge, the evil one seeks to use the law against us. This is why he promotes hatred within marriages, within families, within communities, and society at large. If we hate our brother, we cannot love God. “Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen” (1 John 4:20).

Therefore, is it any wonder that the first words Jesus Christ says to His disciples after He was raised from the dead was, “Peace be with you?” Is it any wonder that Jesus Christ prayed to His Heavenly Father regarding His disciples and the Church that “they may be one even as We are one?” (John 17:22).

Christ brings the **Truth** and Clarity instead of anxiety. He Brings **Life** instead of fear. He brings the **Way** of brotherhood and community instead of hatred. “...I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). Let us embrace our Lord in His Resurrection. Let us reject anxiety, fear, and hatred's illusory power over us.

After all, my beloved brothers and sister in Christ....

It is the day of Resurrection; let us be radiant for the festival, and let us embrace one another. Let us say, O brethren, even to those that hate us: Let us forgive all things on the Resurrection; and thus let us cry: Christ is risen from the dead, by death He has trampled down death, and on those in the tombs He has bestowed life. - *Doxastikon of the Praises (Plagal of the First Tone)*

Καλό Πάσχα! Καλή Ανάσταση!

+ Fr. Dimitry

I remain your servant in Christ,
Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Parish Council Update

By Themistocles Frangos

Hello Parishioners of St. Basil,

I hope this update finds you all well, as we approach the halfway point of Great Lent. I also urge you all to attend some services you may not have attended in the past, such as the Wednesday night Pre-Sanctified Liturgy service and lenten meal and lecture. We have had some great speakers and look forward to more. Please see the flyer on page 19 for more information.

We also welcomed Metropolitan Nathanael on Friday, March 22, for the Salutations to the Theotokos service. We had many parishioners, numerous chanters, and a full choir in attendance. We thank His Eminence for serving with us that evening.

A few updates and future save the dates: Our annual Trivia Night at the Billy Goat Tavern is set for Thursday, June 13, and our annual Golf Outing at The Odyssey Country Club will take place on Wednesday, July 10. We hope to see you all there.

Kali Anastasi,
Jayme Schenk, Parish Council President

Philoptochos Update

By Vana Kikos

Dear St. Basil Parishioners — A blessed lenten season to all,

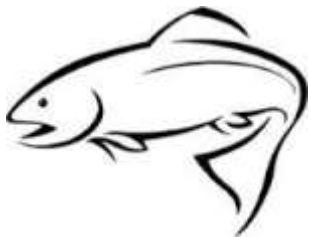
Following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on April 3, at 6:00 p.m., Philoptochos will host a lenten meal for part 4 of the Lenten Lecture Series. Father Dimitri will be the speaker for this lecture and will discuss the topic of forgiveness. We hope to see you there as we know this will be another wonderful and informative evening of fellowship and spiritual renewal.

The baking continues in preparation for Pascha. Please join us to help bake — see dates and times for Yiayia's Kouzina on page 7. Easter pre-orders will be available for pick-up on April 14.

Please join us for our annual Palm Sunday Luncheon on April 21, immediately following Divine Liturgy in Philoptochos Hall. (see details below). And remember to purchase tickets for our Lamb Raffle -- winners will be announced during the luncheon.

April's Philoptochos meeting will be on Thursday, April 11, at 6:50 p.m. Please join us.

Always in His Service,
Vana Kikos, Philoptochos President

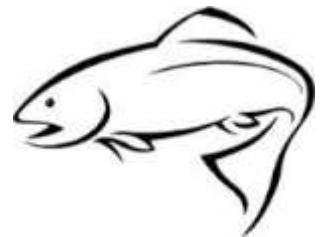


Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon

Adults— \$25.00

Children under 12 —\$10.00

Lamb Raffle



Yiayia's Kouzina Update

By Cynthia Schroeder

Yiayia's Kouzina is looking for volunteers to help bake sweets in preparation for Easter. Baking will take place at St. Basil's Philoptochos Hall during the following times:

- + Saturday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- + Wednesday, April 11, 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Easter pre-orders will be available for pick-up on April 14. Baked goods will also be available during our Bake Sale (April 14) in Philoptochos Hall.

Available Items:

- + Baklava \$15
- + Koulouria \$12
- + Sesame Koulouria \$12
- + Spice Koulouria \$12



Stewardship Update

By Maria-Kanella Koper



Registration for 2019 has begun. You can sign up at <http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/stewardship/> or pick up a pamphlet at the pangari. We are looking forward to an exciting and prosperous year.

2019 Snapshot (as of March 25, 2019)

<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Collected</u>
141	\$196,354	\$84,249

By mid-March 2019 our pledged amount has **surpassed** the total amount pledged in the past ten years. This is such a blessing for our beautiful church. Keep up the great work. 2019 will be a great year for our St. Basil.

We are still looking for new members to join the stewardship team who are interested in helping grow the engagement of parishioners and new members at St. Basil. Stewardship Ministry meetings will be in the weekly bulletin. Please join us, we'd love to have you. If you are interested in being part of the team, please contact Maria-Kanella Koper at mariakkoper@gmail.com.

Saint Basil Stewardship Ministry wants to hear from you! Have any questions, comments, ideas, or feedback? Let us know how we're doing so that we can better serve our church.

Have you become a steward of St. Basil's? Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Stewardship" to learn more, or contact the church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)

The Thief and St. Peter

The 3 C's of True Christian Leaders (What a Difference a Few Days Can Make)

By Bill Marianes*

What a difference a few days can make. The most faithful doubt, and the biggest sinners believe. How can that be and which would you be? Let's review.

St. Peter (a/k/a "the rock") walked with our Lord and saw, first-hand, the many miracles Christ performed, and he heard our Lord preach the Word. Imagine having a front row seat next to the Messiah. And after all St. Peter heard, witnessed and saw with his own eyes, our Lord accurately foresaw that St. Peter would deny being a disciple of Christ. (Matthew 26:34) St. Peter proudly protested that he would not abandon and deny his Master (Matthew 26:35) and boldly proclaimed: "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You."

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

Well we all know how that turned out. Just a short while later, St. Peter repeatedly said he didn't even know "the Man." (Matthew 26:69-75). In today's vernacular, we might say St. Peter "didn't have His back" or perhaps we'd say he "threw Him under the bus?" But St. Peter was not alone. St. Matthew, in what must have been a hard reality to confess, tells us clearly, that at the end, when Christ was being arrested and needed his brothers the most: "Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled." (Matthew 26:56). So much for the Courage of Conviction. The Apostles were great and holy men who redeemed themselves with their faith, preaching and teaching, but this was not one of their finest hours.

Now let's fast forward and look at one of the really bad guys in the story of these days. A true thief, a "criminal" (Luke 23:39) whose crimes were so great that he was sentenced to death. We don't know too much about him, but we would clearly say today: "he was a bad guy." He had not walked and worked with Christ. He had not seen our Lord's countless miracles and healing grace. He had not experienced Christ's redeeming love and patient teaching. He just finds himself being put to death, and coincidentally crucified right next to our Lord. What are the chances of that happening?

So what does this evil man have to say: "Lord, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom." (Luke 23:42) Wait! What was that? The bad actor who has seen nothing of Christ's greatness, publicly acknowledges Him to be the Lord of "the Kingdom?" And the Apostles who saw everything, instead doubted, denied and abandoned our Lord. What powerful contrasting imagery the Holy Gospel gives us. We know the thief was promised to be with our Lord that day in Paradise (Luke 23:43), and yet look at what the Apostles had to do, and endure, to receive the same great fate. Wow, this must really be an important lesson in Christian faith leadership.

So what are we to learn about being a faithful Christian leader and good steward of God's many gifts? I think one message of these powerful Holy Scripture passages is what I call the "3-C" model of what it takes to be a true Christian leader and a true steward of Christ's church.

My first "C" stands for Conviction. Conviction is simply defined as a "firmly held belief." I also like the definition that says a Conviction is "the act of moving a person by argument or evidence to belief." It takes information. It takes reasons and reasoning. And it leads to something you are willing to pronounce as "the truth." Not just fantasy or opinion or conjecture. But the real "gospel truth" (pun intended). Before one can lead themselves or others, they must be Convicted that the direction they are pursuing is righteous, appropriate, the best Choice and just plain right.

My second "C" stands for Courage. We all think we understand Courage. Many think they have demonstrated it. But we clearly know it when we see it in others. We see first responders and soldiers risking their lives to save others whom they do not even know. We see it in leaders of movements who are willing to risk everything, including their freedom, and sometimes even their lives, for the cause to which they are Convicted. There can be no better example than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After asking those to whom He preached to go "all in" (as in the young rich man in Matthew 19:16-26), he demonstrated His complete Conviction to His faith and calling, by sacrificing His very life on the cross.

And when we develop a Conviction, and demonstrate Courage, we are led to the point of my third "C" a Choice. Indeed, many Choices. What will we Choose to do? Will we demonstrate our Conviction and Courage and make the right and righteous Choice in the beliefs we pronounce and the actions we pursue? Or will we have doubts, and fears, and "play it safe" by taking the path of least resistance. Will we "forsake" what we say we believe in, and instead "flee" as the Apostles did on that faithful night? Or will we have the bold Courage of Conviction of the thief, and publicly declare our humility to Christ and the cause, and ask to be remembered in His kingdom.

Now, far be it from me, the first among sinners, to cast any stones in the direction of our glorious and Courageous Apostles. Would that any of us could take the crosses they bore with such grace, love, dignity and power. And a few moments of weakness and doubt do not a person or legacy make. They are merely teachable moments.

I heard an inspirational preacher, Andy Stanley, deliver a powerful homily about how the Apostles doubted right after Christ's crucifixion and death, fearing He was just a man. That is, until they became convinced of His resurrection. Indeed in the story of "the road to Emmaus," and in what follows (Luke 24:13-49), we see their transformation and Conviction that led to their Courage to inevitably make the very Choices that propelled them on their ministry to overcome all adversity and do as they were commanded in the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19) or if you prefer "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15).

So what kind of Christian leader and faithful steward are you? Do you believe and have the Conviction of your faith, or are you merely going through the motions? Do you truly believe in the risen Lord and that you too were called to some service or ministry to

His church? Do you truly believe that you were given gifts by your Maker to use for the benefit of others and on your journey toward theosis?

Do you have the Courage to step out, and forward, and live the life you were called to live and make disciples, if not yet of all nations, at least in your Parish or community? When challenged by others, including some of those “in authority” (who would rather maintain their position of power rather than achieve what needs to be done), will you be brave and faithful and not back down or flee?

When you truly demonstrate your Conviction and Courage, you can begin to make the right and better Choices. You can acknowledge that you have been given gifts and talents, and then stand up and use them better and more fully. I believe that stewardship is what you do with all of the gifts God gave you. So what are you good at that your Parish or community needs? And how are you, with Conviction and Courage, making the right Choice to offer those gifts and talents to help others on your journey toward “the Kingdom.”

Yeah, I know, you’re busy. So are all of us. So were the Apostles when Christ commanded them to leave it all behind and follow Him. Your Conviction and Courage can be, but doesn’t have to be, as great as theirs. However, you have to have a Conviction of faith, and demonstrate the Courage in your belief, in order to live, preach and teach it and then make the right Choices.

And when you do, you will be a true steward of God’s gifts and truly live your stewardship calling. What’s stopping you from becoming the true and faithful Christian leader you were destined and called to become? Yes, we must constantly pray that the Lord remembers us in his Kingdom. However, we must also act like we mean it.

Discover what you’re good at that your Parish or community needs, and then have the Courage and Conviction to make the right Choice to lead by example. God bless you on your journey as you discover and live your stewardship calling. My prayer for you is that you “SOTPAETJ” (stay on The Path and enjoy the journey).

* By day, Bill Marianes is a partner in the Atlanta office of a large international law firm. By calling, he is a stewardship evangelist who seeks to inspire people and Parishes to live their stewardship callings. To learn more about how you and your Parish can better live your respective stewardship callings and improve your stewardship ministries, visit his free stewardship resource www.stewardshipcalling.com. You can watch his “Igniting the Flame of True Christian Stewardship” program, learn about strategic planning as an invaluable Parish process and tool, and view other extensive materials that help Parishes reorganize themselves to become ministry-based and stewardship driven, and re-energize the faithful to live their true Christian stewardship callings. You can contact Bill at Bill@stewardshipcalling.com or sotpaetj@gmail.com. Copyright © Bill Marianes 2014

Prison Ministry

By Pat Cole

Life After Prison – Prison Ministry Discussion

Every inmate eagerly awaits his return to family and community after incarceration. It is a chance to begin life anew. Re-entry presents opportunities, but it also presents great challenges in terms of housing, employment, and family relations.

The St. Basil Prison Ministry will explore re-entry issues on Saturday, May 11, at 10 a.m. The purpose of the program is to educate parishioners and relatives of prisoners about the realities of life after prison. Our featured speaker will be Christopher Roach, program director of St. Leonard’s House, a nonprofit organization that provides interim housing and supportive services to help ex-inmates rebuild their lives and reshape their futures. Mr. Roach will speak about the programs St. Leonard’s offers and about efforts underway to improve re-entry services statewide. The discussion will be of special interest to anyone who corresponds with an inmate.

Since its founding in 1954, St. Leonard’s has been effective at reducing recidivism. Only 16 percent of men and five percent of women who participate in its programs return to prison within six years. Please join us for an informative discussion on this important topic. A light breakfast will be provided. The event is free and open to all.

Girls Ministry

By Presbytera Maria Tobias

What an amazing event! The Girls from the Girls Ministry traveled to Schaumburg on Saturday, March 24th and participated in the Feed the My Starving Children.



Join us on St. Mary of Egypt Sunday, April 14, for a discussion of "Orthodox Women in Action." Father Dimitri and a

Coffee Hour Ministry—Volunteers Needed for 2019

The Coffee Hour Ministry at St. Basil allows parishioners the opportunity to host coffee hour twice a month. It's a great way to get involved and promote fellowship at St. Basil while getting to know one another better.

We still have a few open dates for 2019 and are looking for volunteers to either host a coffee hour or participate in one of our potluck luncheons with a team of other parishioners. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at 312-243-3738.

We thank everyone who has volunteered to host a coffee hour in 2019.



Sunday, April 7	Coffee Hour Ministry: Angela Panousakis & Christina Gountanis
Sunday, April 14	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos
Sunday, April 21	Palm Sunday Luncheon
Sunday, April 28	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos

Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

Thanks you to the families that attended the Presanctified Liturgy and Lenten Lecture titled “Having a Great Lent at any stage of Life” by Dr. Randa Karadsheh Anderson. The lecture was a wonderful opportunity for our students to become directly involved in the lenten season. Dr.Randa shared many valuable resources with us. Some excellent reads include *Great Lent: Journey to Pascha* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *Fasting as a Family: Planning & Preparing Lenten Meals* by Melissa Naasko, and *Children in the Church Today* by Sister Magdalene.

Lent has begun and the students have started their lenten journey using their Lenten Passports. The passport is a small booklet about the size of a U.S. passport. Similar to a real passport, it has many different spaces for stamps. The stamps that go in this passport are of beautiful icons that correspond to each destination in the Pascha Passport. These passport stamps are received at each of the various services of the Triodon, Lent , Holy Week, and special destinations such as confession, The Lord's Prayer, Lenten Retreat and extra-Lenten services like Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday.

We will be having our Spring Sunday School Family Sunday on **April 7** immediately following Divine Liturgy. Father Dimitri will continue discussing the text *Blueprints for the Little Church* by Elissa Bjeletich and Caleb Shoemaker. These Family Sunday interactive sessions provide a great opportunity for families to come together to learn the primary practices of Orthodoxy. So please purchase the text for \$10.00 and join us.

The Holy Sacrament of Confession for our Sunday school students will take place on **April 14** immediately following Divine Liturgy. Parents please discuss the Ten Commandments with your child. Please view <https://www.goarch.org/-/the-ten-commandments> with your family. Be the Bee #36 also discusses confession. Parents can view the entire series on YouTube. Please take the opportunity to view with your child.

If you have any questions regarding the St. Basil Sunday School, please contact Jennifer Georgopoulos at jenspalla75@sbcglobal.net



Feed My Starving Children Ministry

By Stella Kapetan

Thank you to the more than 50 parishioners and friends, including many of our children, who participated in our 5th annual Feed My Starving Children meal-packing event on Saturday, March 23.

Each volunteer packed about 216 meals — enough to feed one child for six months. These meals were sent to Haiti, one of the more than 70 countries FMSC serves, to feed children in orphanages, hospitals, schools, and clinics. The World Health Organization reports that 6,200 children worldwide die each day from hunger-related issues. But the children you helped feed have a chance to play, go to school and dare to dream of a future.

We hope to see you at next year's event to save even more children from the pain of starvation. Glory be to God!



St. Basil—March 2019

Apokreatiko Glendi — March 3



Sunday of Orthodoxy — March 17



Salutation to the Theotokos—March 23



Doxology for March 25th: Annunciation and Greek Independence Day



Slipper of St. Gerasimos of Kefalonia



April 10 Renewal Tuesday: The Commemoration of Saints Raphael, Nicholas, Irene, and the Other Newly-revealed Martyrs of Lesbos



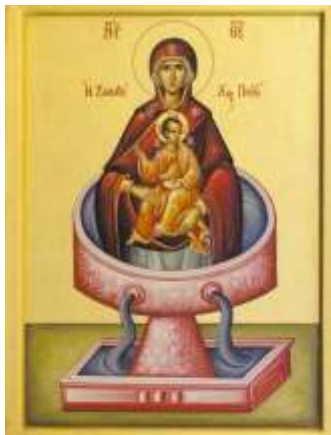
On the island of Mytilene (Lesbos in ancient times), near the village of Therme, the villagers had a custom of ascending a certain hill on this day to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the ruins of a small chapel, although no one knew whence the tradition sprang. In the year 1959, certain villagers began seeing persons who spoke to them, first in dreams, then awake, both by day and by night. Through these wondrous appearances, which were given to many people independently, the holy Martyrs Raphael, Archimandrite of the ancient monastery, and Nicholas, his deacon, together with other saints who had been martyred on the island, told the villagers the whole account of their martyrdom, which had taken place at the hands of the Moslem Turks ten years after the fall of Constantinople, in 1463. The twelve-year-old Irene had been tortured, then burned alive in a large earthenware jar in the presence of her parents. On Tuesday of Renewal Week, Saint Raphael had been tied to a tree and his head sawn off through his jaws; Saint Nicholas had died at the sight of this. Although the feast is celebrated today because it is the day of their martyrdom, through the appearances of the saints as living persons five hundred years after their martyrdom, it is also a singular testimony to the Resurrection of Christ.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

On Lesbos, ye strove in contest for the sake of Christ God; ye also have hallowed her with the discovery of your relics, O blessed ones. O God-bearer Raphael, with thee, we all honor Nicholas the deacon and Irene the chaste virgin, as our divine protectors, who now intercede with the Lord.

April 13 Renewal Friday The Lifegiving Font

Outside of Constantinople, towards the district of the Seven Towers, there was in ancient times a very large and most beautiful church named in honor of the Theotokos; it had been built about the middle of the fifth century by the Emperor Leo the Great (also called "Leo of Thrace," he is commemorated on Jan. 20). Before he became Emperor, he had encountered there a blind man, who being tormented with thirst asked him to help him find water. Leo felt compassion for him and went in search of a source of water but found none. As he became downcast, he heard a voice telling him there was water nearby. He looked again, and found none. Then he heard the voice again, this time calling him "Emperor" and telling him that he would find muddy water in the densely wooded place nearby; he was to take some water and anoint the blind man's eyes with it. When he had done this, the blind man received his sight. After Leo became Emperor as the most holy Theotokos had prophesied, he raised up a church over the spring, whose waters worked many healings and cured maladies by the grace of the Theotokos; from this, it came to be called the "Life-giving Spring." The Church of Christ celebrates the consecration of this church on this day.



After the fall of the imperial city, this church was razed to the ground and the materials from it were used for building the mosque of Sultan Bayezid. Nothing remained of that church's ancient beauty, except for a small and paltry chapel, almost completely buried in the ruins. This chapel had twenty-five steps going down into it, and a transom window on the roof, wherefrom it received a little light. Toward the western side of the chapel was the aforementioned holy Spring, fenced about with a railing, and with fish swimming in it. Such was the condition of the Spring until 1821. Then even that little remnant was destroyed, occasioned by the uprising of the Greek nation against the Ottoman Empire; the sacred Spring was buried with it and disappeared altogether.

But in the days of Sultan Mahmud, when those subject to him were rejoicing in their freedom to practice their religion, permission was sought by the Orthodox Christian community to rebuild at least part of the chapel. Thus the work was begun on July 26, 1833. When the excavation had been made, and the foundations of the ancient church were found, there was rebuilt -- by a later writ of permission from the Sultan -- not merely a chapel of the holy Spring, but another new church, constructed upon the foundations of the ancient one. The building of this spacious, beautiful, and most majestic temple began on September 14, 1833, and the work was completed on December 30, 1834. On February 2, 1835, the Ecumenical Patriarch Constantine II, serving the Liturgy

together with twelve hierarchs and a great company of clergy, as well as a boundless multitude of Christians, performed the consecration of this sacred church and dedicated it to the glory of the Mother of God. On September 6, 1955, however, it was desecrated and destroyed again by the Moslem Turks; it has been restored again, but not to the former magnificence.

Apolytikion in the Third Tone

As a life-giving fount, thou didst conceive the Dew that is transcendent in essence, O Virgin Maid, and thou hast welled forth for our sakes the nectar of joy eternal, which doth pour forth from thy fount with the water that springeth up unto everlasting life in unending and mighty streams; wherein, taking delight, we all cry out: Rejoice, O thou Spring of life for all men.

April 23 St. George the Trophy Bearer



George, this truly great and glorious martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or chiliarch (that is, a commander of a thousand troops), he was illustrious in battle and highly honored for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia.

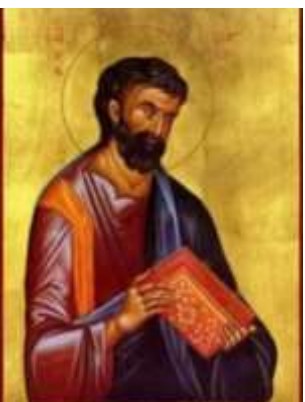
His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name. (The translation of the saint's holy relics to the church in Lydda is commemorated on November 3; Saint Alexandra the Queen, on April 21.)

If April 23 falls on or before Great and Holy Pascha, the feast of St. George is translated to Bright Monday.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

April 25 St. Mark the Evangelist



Mark was an idolater from Cyrene of Pentapolis, which is near Libya. Having come to the Faith of Christ through the Apostle Peter, he followed him to Rome. While there, at the prompting of Peter himself and at the request of the Christians living there, he wrote his Gospel in Greek, and it is second in order after Matthew's. Afterwards, traveling to Egypt, he preached the Gospel there and was the first to establish the Church in Alexandria. The idolaters, unable to bear his preaching, seized him, bound him with ropes, and dragged him through the streets until he, cut to pieces on rocks, gave up his soul. It is said that he completed his life in martyrdom about the year 68. He is depicted in holy icons with a lion next to him, one of the living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10) and a symbol of Christ's royal office, as Saint Irenaeus of Lyons writes.

If April 25 falls on or before Great and Holy Pascha, the feast of St. Mark is translated to Bright Tuesday.

Apolytikion in the Third Tone

O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

Holy Week—Volunteers Needed

CALLING ALL YOUNG LADIES

We need myrofores (myrrh bearing women) for Holy Friday Night.

Please wear a white dress and see Jennifer Georgopoulos if you are interested in participating.



CALLING ALL STRONG ARMS

We need volunteers to carry the Kouvouklion around the church on the evening of Holy Friday. Please participate in the honor of carrying the bier of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please See Tony Frankos if you are interested in participating.



CALLING ALL FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPEAKERS

We need volunteers to read the Gospel in foreign languages during the Agape Vespers on Easter Sunday, April 28. Looking for a variety of languages...some examples below:

Spanish—Italian—Chinese—Tigrina
Latin—Russian—Romanian—Swahili
German—Arabic—Oromo—English
French—Japanese—Amharic, and other
languages welcome

Please contact Father Dimitri if you are interested in participating in this wonderful service.



Holy Week — Liturgical Schedule



Saturday, April 20

Saturday of Lazarus

Orthros 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.



Thursday, April 25

Mystical Supper Liturgy

Vesperal Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

The Passion Service

Orthros 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 21

Palm Sunday

Orthros 8:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.

Holy Monday Orthros

(Bridegroom Service)

Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Friday, April 26

The Royal Hours

Hours Service 9:00 a.m.

The Apokatheiosis

(Removal from the Cross)

Vespers 2:30 p.m.

The Lamentations

Orthros 7:00 p.m.



Monday, April 22

Holy Tuesday Orthros

(Bridegroom Service)

Orthros 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23

Holy Tuesday Orthros

(Bridegroom Service)

Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Wednesday, April 24

Unction Ευχέλιον Service

Unction 2:30 p.m.

Holy Thursday Orthros

(with Unction)

Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Saturday, April 27

The Protianastasi

(Little Resurrection)

Vesperal Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

The Orthros of the Resurrection

Orthros 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 28

The Resurrection

Come Receive the Light 12:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 12:30 a.m.

The Agape Vespers 12:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt to follow service



DONATIONS for GREAT LENT & PASCHAL SEASON 2019

GREAT LENT:

Flowers for Icon of the Panagia on Fridays
1st Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - Donated
2nd Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - Donated
3rd Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - Donated
4th Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - Donated
Akathist Hymn/Ακάθιστος Ύμνος - Donated
Flowers for Stavroproskiniseos (3rd Sunday) - Donated
Bottles or Cases of Nama Wine
Incense for Great Lent - Donated
Flowers for Icon of Palm Sunday - 50
Palms & Daphne for Palm Sunday - 750
Fish for Palm Sunday Luncheon - 500



HOLY WEEK:

Flowers for Icon of Nymphios - Donated
Extra Virgin Olive Oil for Holy Unction—Donated
Flour for Holy Unction
Seven Candles for Holy Unction - 50
Flowers for Icon of Mystical Supper - 75
Flowers for Icon of Crucifixion - 75
Candles for the Holy Cross – 50
12 Candles for the Twelve Holy Gospels - Donated
Stefani-Stavromenon (Flowered Wreath) Holy Thursday - Donated
White Sheet for Body of Christ - Donated
Flowers for Decorating the Epitafios - \$800
Epitafios Roses for the Faithful - \$900
Rose Water & Rose Petals Holy Friday - Donated
Rose Petals for Holy Saturday Morning - 200
Clergy Resurrection/Anastasi Candle – Donated
Flowers for Icons of the Resurrection - Donated

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA (4.28.19):

Paschal Easter Lilies for Anastasi – 25 each (20 needed)
Eggs for Holy Pascha - Donated
Tulle & Ribbon for Paschal Eggs - 100
Children's Paschal Easter Candy Hunt - 350

Note: Please specify exact item with your donation. THANK YOU for your love & support! Βοήθειά σας!

Please complete the information below and return entire form to the St. Basil Church office; along with your payment.	
Kindly make checks payable to <u>St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church.</u>	
(Please print)	
Item _____	
Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Telephone (____) _____	
Donation Amount: \$ _____ Check _____ Cash _____ Credit Card _____	
Credit Card: Visa _____ MasterCard _____ American Express _____	
Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____	
Signature (for Credit Card) _____	

St. Basil Lenten Lecture Series 2019 & Journey to Pascha

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2019

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 7th		ST JOHN of the LADDER Reading: Hebrews 6: 13-20 Gospel: Mark 9: 17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th		ST MARY of EGYPT Reading: Hebrews 9: 11-14 & Heb 2: 11-18 Gospel: Mark 10: 32-45 & LK 1: 24-38	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 21st GREAT WEEK BEGINS		GREAT AND HOLY WEEK ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9 Gospel: John 12: 1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 26th		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet, & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 28th NO FASTING!		BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1: 1-8 Gospel: John 1: 1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Lenten Lecture Series 2019

Lent affords all Orthodox Christians a time of reflection and spiritual strengthening with increased fasting, prayer and services as we move towards the Passion and glorious, saving Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Each Wednesday evening during Great and Holy Lent we will be offering edifying lectures at St. Basil. These Lectures will take place after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and meal provided by one of our many wonderful Ministries

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy begins at 6:00 p.m. Dinner followed by presentation 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3

**Forgiveness: Jacob DeShazer
& St. Dionysios of Zakynthos**

Speaker: Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias

Sponsor: St. Basil Philoptochos



Wednesday, April 10

**St. Mary of Egypt and the
Power of Repentance**

Speaker: Ms. Eleni Geanon

Sponsor: Welcoming Ministry





*Please join us for
our annual
St. Basil
PALM SUNDAY
LUNCHEON
And an afternoon of
Fellowship*

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019

following Divine Liturgy in the

Philoptochos Fellowship Hall

Traditional Fish Plaki

**accompanied by skordalia, rice, salad, beets,
dessert and beverages**

Adults ~ \$25.00

Children under 12 ~ \$10.00

**For more information or to make a reservation, call the church office at
312.243.3738. Checks should be made payable to St. Basil Philoptochos.**

We will also have a Lamb Raffle for FOUR WHOLE BABY LAMBS (freshly cut and wrapped; ready to cook or freeze). Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 tickets for \$25.00. Drawings will be held during the Palm Sunday Luncheon (winner need not be present). Proceeds from the raffle will go to our Philoptochos for various philanthropic endeavors.



Sponsored by St. Basil Philoptochos



St. Basil Philoptochos PALM SUNDAY Lamb Raffle

Enter for your chance to win
one of four ****WHOLE** baby lambs

****Freshly cut & wrapped**
****Ready to cook or freeze**

GET
YOUR
TICKETS!

Tickets
\$10 each
or
3 for \$25

Tickets will be mailed to all Stewards
and sold after Liturgy in the Fellowship Hall

Drawing on Palm Sunday, April 21
(winner need not be present)

ENTER
TO
WIN!

Thank you for your support!
All proceeds will help us
continue our
philanthropic endeavors!

St. Basil — 2019 Stewards

<p>A Lex & Sue Alexander Michael Angelakos Anonymous Stella Antonoglu Marina Arvanitis & Ed Franklin Thomas & Lauren Arvanitis Leia Asimacopoulos</p> <p>B Gregory & Maria Bairaktaris Andrew Bannos Dr. Robert & Dr. Sophia Sarkos-Barnes Tom & Leslie Bezanis Dorothy Bezemes John & Patoula Billiris Matthew Bills John & Dr. Christine Bishop Nick & Angie Brinias John & Cassy Brinkman</p> <p>C John & Venus Campanelli Joanne Chamis John & Eleni Chioros Dean Christides Ernest & Christine Schenk Cochanis Stephan & Patricia Patsis-Cole Maria Constantinides Pam Cosmos Thomas Couston</p> <p>D Tim & Jenel Damis Anesti & Emily Dhima Anthony Dolas Matt & Alexis Douglas Petros & Nichole Drimonas Gus Drugas Amelia Duka</p> <p>F Themis & Angeline Fabiatos Martin & Elaine Fosse Charles & Rosemary Fountas Ioannis Fountas Nicholas & Vicky Fountas Zach & Kalliopi Fountas Tony & Georgia Fragale John Frangias Themis Frangos Andrea Frankos Tony & Helene Frankos</p> <p>G Nick & Jennifer Georgopoulos George Goltsos Christina Gountanis Melita Green Kevin & Kathryn Gulley</p>	<p>H Sophia Haritos Arthur & Angie Harris Melanie Hillock Philip & Katherine Hiotis Willaim & Catherine Hostetler</p> <p>K Stella Kapetan Aris Kapsopoulos Demetra Karas George & Karen Karas Dean & Maria Kartsimas Zarif & Maria Karwandyar Ralli Katsikas Charles & Jean Katsoulis Evan & Eleni Katsoulis Nick Katsoulis Peter Katsoulis Dr. Kenneth & Arlene Kehl Anthony & Christina Kidonakis Vana Kikos John Koliopoulos Eleni Kontalonis Ryan & Maria Kanella Koper Phyllis Koumantos John & Eugenia Kourvas Constantine & Anastasia Koutsoubas Frank Kuchuris</p> <p>L John & Anna Lambros Ekaterini Lekkas Andy Lipscomb Elias Loumakis</p> <p>M Dina Manasses Eleni Manasses Vicky Manasses Dean & Anastasia Maragos Carl & Natalie Michas Harry & Kathy Michas</p> <p>O Dr. Ben & Karina Onderdonk</p> <p>P James & Bess Pabin George Panagopoulos Dimos & Angela Panousakis Rhonda Panousakis Sophia Panousakis Marice Papadakis Bette Pappas Sam Pappas Ken & Helen Paspalas-Rubenstein Lambros & Mary Peroulas Mark Phillip Eleni Pontikes John & Carol Pontikes Joann Prekezes</p>	<p>R Jonathan Ramirez John Regas Robert & Irene Rohrman Anthony & Christina Rouches Demetra Rouches Sam & Christine Rousakis</p> <p>S Irene Santos Christine Saucedo Jayme Schenk Konstantinos & Marisa Schoinas Harold & Cindy Schroeder Emily Sedares Nicholas Senopoulos Panagiota Sianis Paul & Pamela Sianis Tom & Eleni Sianis Grigorios & Debra Skourletos John Stathopoulos Brian & Nicole Steinberg Kathy Stratton Irar Sweiss</p> <p>T Gerasim & Edith Tikoff Dr. Richard & Angela Tobias Fr. Dimitri & Presvytera Mary Tobias Nick & Kristen Triandafilou George Tsagaris Maria Tsagaris Anthony Tsenes Sophia Tsilimigras George & Juliana Tziahanas</p> <p>V Catherine Valsamoulis Dee Vergos</p> <p>W Kathy Walstrom Melanie Walstrom Charles & Katherine Walstrom</p> <p>Z George & Dorothy Zimbrakos Frances Zaroyiannis Georgia Zaroyiannis Ifiyenia Zaroyiannis Kyri Zaroyiannis Melanie Zaroyiannis</p>
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St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:00 pm Great Compline 7:00 pm Teacher meeting	3 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy with Speaker and Dinner	4 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	5 6:30 am Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos	6 10:00 am Philoptochos Baking
7 Sunday School Family Sunday Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:15 am	8 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	9 6:00 pm Great Compline	10 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy with Speaker and Dinner	11 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri 3:00 pm ViaVia Kouzina Meeting 7:00 pm Philoptochos Meeting	12 6:30 am Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm The Akathist Hymn	13 10:00 am Philoptochos Baking
14 Students' Holy Confession Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:15 am 11:30 am Women in Ac-tion (St. Mary of Egypt Sunday)	15	16	17	18 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	19	20 8:30 am Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of Lazarus
21 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Holy Sunday Night - Orthros of Holy Monday	22 Easter Monday 6:00 pm Holy Monday Night - Orthros of Holy Tuesday	23 6:00 pm Holy Tuesday Night - Orthros of Holy Wednesday	24 3:00 pm Holy Euchelion (Uction) Service 6:00 pm Holy Wednesday Night - Orthros of Holy Thursday (Uction Admin-istered)	25 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri 9:00 am Vespersal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper 7:00 pm The Holy Passion Service (Reading of the 12 Gos-	26 9:00 am Royal Hours of Holy Friday 3:00 pm Vespers of Holy Friday - Apoka-theilosis (removal from the Cross) 7:00 pm The Lamenta-tions	27 9:00 am The Protiastasi Vespersal Liturgy 11:00 pm Service of Prepa-ration 11:45 pm Come Receive the Light!
28 Come Receive the Light! Orthros of the Resurrection Service of Preparation 1:30 am Divine Liturgy of Pascha 12:00 pm AGAPE Vespers (Reading of All Languages) 7:00 pm Great Vespers of St. George the Trophybearer	29 8:00 am Hierarchal Or-thros & Divine Liturgy for St. George the Tro-phy Bearer (At St. George)	30 6:30 am Divine for the Evangelist St. Mark				

**ST. BASIL CHURCH
HOSTS 4th ANNUAL**



DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 13

LOCATION: BILLY GOAT INN, 1535 W. MADISON ST., CHICAGO, IL

TIME: 7PM – 9PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM)

TRIVIA STARTS PROMPTLY AT 7PM

TEAMS OF 4 TO 6 - \$40/PERSON

**PRICE INCLUDES OPEN BAR (WELL DRINKS AND BEER), ENTIRE FOOD
MENU, AND DESSERT (OPEN BAR FROM 6:45PM TO 8:45PM)**

PRIZES FOR TOP 3 TEAMS

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.STBASILCHICAGO.ORG/TRIVIA

**(TEAM CAPTAINS CAN REGISTER THEIR TEAMS ONLINE WITH TEAM MEMBER
NAMES; EACH INDIVIDUAL CAN PAY SEPARATELY WITH TEAM NAME)**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ST. BASIL AT (312) 243-3738 OR info@stbasilchicago.org

SAVE THE DATE

**ST. BASIL CHURCH OUTING TO THE
CHICAGO CUBS**

Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019 • 7:05pm



Come out for a wonderful night of baseball, fun, and fellowship!

**Tickets are located in the lower deck and can be purchased online at
www.stbasilchicago.org/cubs or after church.**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ST. BASIL AT (312) 243-3738 OR info@stbasilchicago.org



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 South Ashland Ave.

Chicago, IL 60607